

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11 to differently cite the invention, and added new claims 12-20. Claims 2-20 are now pending. Claims 1 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raylman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,880) in view of Carroll et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,959,547). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raylman et al. and Carroll et al., and further in view of Pompei et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,573). Claims 2, 3, and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2, 3, and 11 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten Claim 2 in independent form and amended Claims 2-10 to depend from allowable Claim 2. Further, Applicants have rewritten Claim 11 in independent form and added new claims 12-20 to depend from claim 11. At least because claims 2 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion, and all of the remaining claims depend from one of independent claims 2 or 11, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the present claims should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the pending Office Action are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues

outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,



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